

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

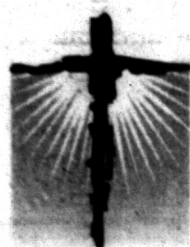
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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## International Mission Bd. appoints 36

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (BP) — John and Elizabeth Kea have learned to never say never.

The Keas were among 36 new missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board (IMB) on Jan. 30 in Gainesville, Fla. When the couple was first called to the mission field, they had no idea where they would go.

However, they knew where they didn't want to go. "We said we'd go anywhere except for Western Europe," John said. "They have heard the Gospel and rejected it."

Still, thoughts of going to Europe persisted. After talking it over with a seasoned missionary, the couple knew their calling was clear.

"The Lord asked, 'Who am I going to send?'" Elizabeth said, "and we said, 'Send us.'"

Where's He sending us? Western Europe," John added, with a laugh. "We'll... serve in Belgium where less than one percent of the people know Jesus."

Last year, for the first time in IMB history, more than 600,000 people were baptized, said Gordon Fort, the IMB's vice president for overseas operations. Doors also began opening for more than 100 people groups who had never been given the chance to hear the Gospel.

"We have an obligation," Fort said. "We have a debt to pay to those who have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ."

The Keas are not alone in their heart for missions. All 36 missionaries shared how God has called them to the field. Among their testimonies:

- "In 1979, while working in a refugee camp on the border of Asia, I realized that



NEW APPOINTMENTS — Flags representing the nations signal the start of an appointment service Jan. 30 at Westside Church in Gainesville, Fla. Thirty-six new missionaries will join more than 5,300 Southern Baptist workers currently serving around the globe through the International Mission Board. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

God had linked my life with the lives of these refugees," said Bill, whose real name cannot be used for security reasons.

It was at this refugee camp that Bill met his future wife Nancy. She heard the Gospel for the first time while at the camp. Soon after accepting Christ, she knew she wanted to serve the Lord for the rest of her life.

Bill and Nancy are now headed back to the same country where they met to share the love of Jesus Christ with others.

- Anthony Gillen remembers a time when he didn't want anything to get in the way of his career plans, especially missions.

As a young, successful entrepreneur, I wasn't going into missions," said Gillen, who had started two businesses and was active in his church's youth ministry. "I had my own plans."

God had plans as well. "It was while we were watching the movie, 'End of the Spear,' that God got our attention," Gillen's wife DeNiel said. "He humbled us. [God] said, 'If you won't go, who will go?'"

The couple will serve in the Dominican Republic.

- Kevin Howard remembers staring down at a cooked dog paw in his soup bowl while serving as a short-term missionary in Asia.

"Was it worth the cost to share Christ?" he thought. It was then that God made two things extremely clear to Howard: yes, the cost is worth it and, yes, he could handle eating unusual foods.

"Now we get to train West African pastors and their wives in Togo," said Howard, who will work alongside his wife Denice.

"Are there sacrifices? Yes. Are they worth it? For the glory of Christ, yes," Howard declared.

- Justin and Allison Rayburn remember going on a short-term mission trip to Ecuador for their first wedding anniversary. The experience changed their lives.

"The trip opened our eyes to the life and work of a missionary," Allison said, "and God used it to place a passion in our hearts to share His Gospel in a foreign country."

The couple will serve in Argentina.

Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board and a graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, challenged the audience to embrace the struggles and difficulties that come with taking the Gospel to a lost world.

Sharing from Luke 24, Rankin talked about the disciples on the road to Emmaus after Christ's crucifixion. They became blinded by their own distress and didn't realize until later that Christ was walking with them.

There are many believers who can't see past their own agenda and struggles, Rankin noted.

"We're blind to the needs of a lost world that has compelled these to give up their lives to go and share the Gospel," he said. "We don't see the world as God sees it. It's not just a world of poverty ... and suffering refugees. It's a world living in darkness."

It's not too late, Rankin added.

"That's the task that we are sending you out with tonight," he said, "that the eyes of a lost world would be open to see our Lord Jesus Christ."

"The mission task to breach that barrier cross-culturally is one of spiritual warfare in setting them free from Satan's bond, delivering them from darkness and opening their eyes to the truth."

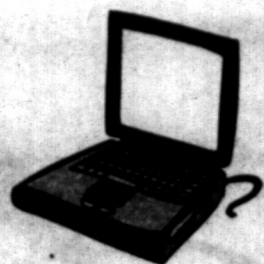
For more information on the ministries of the International Mission Board, visit [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org).

## Prayer Breakfast



State Auditor Stacey Pickering (right) talks with Stan Buckley, pastor of First Church, Jackson, after the 2008 Mississippi Baptist Legislative Prayer Breakfast in the Skyroom of the Baptist Building in Jackson. Buckley was the keynote speaker for the breakfast. Pickering is a member of First Church, Laurel. The breakfast is held each year at the beginning of the legislative session and is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





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# Why are we Christians?

**W**e all know the type — the guy who wears the latest clothing from his favorite university, who plasters his car with stickers from the school and stakes a wood cutout of the school's mascot in his front yard on game day. He's constantly bloviating about his sports acumen (harking back to his days as a "star" athlete) and offering unsolicited advice to anyone within earshot as to what he would have done if he had been the coach.

He's the armchair quarterback, the weekend warrior, the shadow coach saturated in school colors. He's been there, done that, and knows it all. If you don't believe it, just ask him. Yet he is never seen at any of the university's games, never darkens the school's campus, and doesn't even particularly care for the university. He just thinks it's cool and wants to be with the "in" crowd. He's a fake. We all know the type.

Unfortunately, that's also a disturbingly accurate description of too many church members in modern America — including Mississippi. They're gung-ho for Jesus, all right. They have the T-shirts and personal-

ized, red-letter Bible to prove it. They are in their pew every Sunday, loudly proclaiming in song their fealty to God and providing amens to the sermon at every opportunity. They attend the right church events and rub elbows with the right people. Every time the church doors are opened, they are there (especially if there's food involved).

Their outside appearance is just fine, yet on the inside they don't mean a word

"WELL, WE USED TO ATTEND THE CHURCH OF METAPHYSICAL LIGHT. THEN WE MOVED TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE NEW FULLNESS. THESE DAYS, YOU CAN FIND US AT THE CLAIRVOYANT CONSCIOUSNESS. YOU WOULD LOVE OUR PROPHET. HE'S JUST AN OLD FARM BOY FROM ARKANSAS."



NEW AGE. OLD FOOLISHNESS.

of what they're saying or doing. It's all social artifice. It's all fake.

Why do they do it? There are probably as many reasons as there are fakers. Some crave the power and influence that have eluded them in other areas of their lives. Some seek business or social connections from which they can profit. For others, it's just a family tradition to be a member of a church somewhere, even if it means nothing.

Does the church need additional workers for the Royal Ambassadors program? Sorry, too busy. How about being a part of that mission trip to eastern Europe? Sorry, too dan-

gerous. The church's homeless shelter needs volunteers to prepare meals and clean up afterward? Sorry, too unappealing.

After all, those jobs are done under the radar and could be overlooked by the prominent people in the church. It is all about us, isn't it? It is all about us getting noticed, isn't it? Even if we dress up and put signs in our yards and do all those other fake things, it's all right as long as we can maintain the masquerade, isn't it?

Far too many of us spout the right words and profess to be His followers, without ever walking in His footsteps. Far too many of us claim to be on the team, without ever leaving the stands. Far too many of us talk the talk, but don't walk the walk. The world is not unaware of our insincerity. Sadly, such behavior will have eternal consequences (Matthew 7:22-24).

People see only the outside; that's why we are often so easily fooled by hidden evil. The Lord can see the inside. He can see into our hearts and He can discern our every secret motivation. All our thoughts and deeds are known to Him.

Church is not a social club, and we're not part-time members. Jesus left us with the most important mission in the history of mankind, as described in Matthew 28:18-20. The gravity of our responsibility to see Jesus' plea accomplished cannot be overstated, especially as our country and our world drift farther and farther from the Truth.

We must take up the cross. We must help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus, and we must do it now before it's too late. Let us throw off the insincerity and false motives that so entangle our witness today, and get the job done before Jesus comes again — and He is coming.

## Annie Armstrong Offering gearing up for another record

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptists' gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions exceeded the national goal for the second consecutive year, with \$59.3 million received, the most ever in the history of the offering.

Geoff Hammond, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), shared the news with national and state leaders Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) leaders at their mid-January board meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Ala.

Hammond noted that wMu is a valued partner in the work of reaching North America. "We cannot do our work without partners. We can't send missionaries without our partners."

Presenting a large thank you board signed by NAMB staff, trustees, and missionaries, Hammond said, "We have gratitude to God for your hard work in getting the word out and teaching people about North American missions. Once again, we had the highest Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the history of the North American Mission Board. Praise the Lord!"

In reaching the \$59.3 million record, Southern Baptists exceeded the offering's 2007 goal of \$57 million by \$2.3 million.

"We are so grateful to all those in our churches who support North American missionaries through prayer and giving," said Wanda S. Lee, wMu's national executive director-treasurer. "We also greatly appreciate the strong and thriving partnership we share with the leadership and field personnel of the North American Mission Board for the cause of missions."

Hammond noted that one of the things he has learned in his eight months as NAMB's president is that "Southern Baptists still love their mission boards because Southern Baptists still love missionaries."

"The North American mission field is becoming increasingly difficult but wonderfully challenging," Hammond said. "God is bringing the nations to be our neighbors. Increasing population, ethnic diversity and secularism characterize the future of North America. Engaging people with the Gospel is critical. As never before, we want to be your North American Mission Board. We are focusing on missionaries and missionary things. We want to help churches do the kinds of things they could not do without a mission board."

Showing a video on the work of Brenda Crim, a collegiate evangelism missionary in Anchorage, Alaska, Hammond painted a poignant picture of how gifts to "Annie" are used in his Jan. 14 comments to wMu leaders.

"Our missionaries do what they do so that men, women, boys and girls can know Christ," Hammond said.


The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering accounts for 47% of NAMB's annual budget, with 37% provided by church gifts through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program to jointly support more than 5,000 missionaries and their ministries with state Baptist convention partners.

The 2008 offering goal is \$61 million, and the theme for the North American Missions

Emphasis is, Live with Urgency. The offering will be promoted in Southern Baptist churches in March, beginning with the Week of Prayer for North American Missions on March 2-9.

The national mission offering was established in 1895 by wMu to support SBC missionaries in the United States. In 1934, the offering was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, wMu's founder and tireless champion of missions.

For more information about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, visit [www.anniearmstrong.com](http://www.anniearmstrong.com). Week of Prayer missionaries will be highlighted in the March issue of Missions Mosaic, a publication of wMu, and in the Spring issue of On Mission, a publication of NAMB.



**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS**  
MARCH 2-9, 2008

**LIVE WITH URGENCY**

**NATIONAL GOAL: \$61,000,000**  
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# Grisham slams Baptists at Atlanta meeting

ATLANTA (BP and local reports) — To restore their prophetic voice in the culture, Baptists must reject "narrow" interpretations of Scripture and speak up on behalf of the poor, plenary session speakers said Jan. 31 at the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant in Atlanta.

John Grisham, one of the most successful pop novelists of all time and a former trial lawyer from Oxford, told the crowd it is time for Baptists to stop reading the Bible with so-called narrow literalness and celebrate diversity.

He criticized the Baptist church he attended during his youth for taking what he said was an inconsistent and intolerant approach to Scripture. "In the Baptist church of my youth we were taught that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God — every word is divinely inspired and it is to be read literally," Grisham said.

"It just dropped out of heaven. Five thousand years ago God made the earth in six days, 144 hours. Then He rested on the Sabbath, which is really on Saturday but we're not going to start that debate. Methuselah lived to be a [thousand], and when Paul wrote that women should be submissive, that was the literal interpretation. It was the law.

"However, when Paul told Timothy to have a little wine," he said to laughter, "and when Jesus said in Mark 16 that His followers would be known for speaking in tongues, taking up the serpents with their hands and drinking the poison, well then some things were not so literal."

He called churches holding such beliefs intolerant and harmful to the cause of Christ.

"The church was proudly intolerant of other people, other denominations, other religions," he said. "Sadly, in many ways and in many places, that church still exists today. Many of you know it because you're products of those churches."

Baptists are hated by some people because Baptists "have worked so hard to exclude so many," Grisham said. Citing Galatians 3:28, he said Baptists must restore their image by respecting everyone.

"Who are we kidding when we try to exclude?" he said. "God made all of us. He loves all of us equally, and He expects us to love and respect each other without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, biblical interpretation, denominations or other religions."



**AUTHOR SPEAKS** — John Grisham (at podium), a popular novelist and former trial lawyer from Oxford, encouraged a New Baptist Covenant crowd Thursday not to emulate the church of his youth, which he said held to literal interpretations of Scripture and was intolerant. (BP photo by Cat Norman)

He specifically criticized those who limit some roles in the church to men only, citing the church of his youth as one bad example.

"In the Baptist church of my youth, women were expected to stay in their places," Grisham said. "They couldn't preach, couldn't serve as deacons.

"They could run the nursery. They could teach the children. They could sing in the choir, but they could not lead in public prayer. They could be appointed missionaries' wives but not missionaries. And two or three times a year, just for good measure, to remind them of their reduced status, we would hear a long sermon based on the first-century writings of the apostle Paul. How many times have I heard 1 Timothy 2:11-12?"

He remarked of 1 Timothy 2:11-12, "Even as a child I did not understand this."

The auditorium, which holds 15,000 people, was approximately half full for Thursday's sessions after an estimated attendance of 9,000 for Wednesday night's address by former President Jimmy Carter. Some attendees of the combined winter meeting of the National Baptist Convention of America, the National

Baptist Convention USA, the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America and the Progressive National Baptist Convention appeared to have gone home.

Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund and a former civil rights attorney in Jackson, called on Baptists to take the lead in lifting children out of poverty.

Millions of children are abused, receive inadequate healthcare, die of preventable causes and lack adequate education, she said. The church must take responsibility for this problem and work for a solution, Edelman said.

"The church ought to be the locomotive and not the caboose in speaking up for the poor children and the neglected children in our country," she said.

"The number of children in poverty has increased by two million since 2000, and our uninsured children have increased by one million in the last two years, and our political leaders say we don't have the money to provide five years of \$70 billion but say we can afford to give tax cuts to billionaires in the top one percent, which costs \$76 billion in lost revenue this year alone," Edelman said.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

David Wills of Clinton, general administration and associational consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), is promoted to director of that department by the MBCB Executive Committee.

### 20 years ago

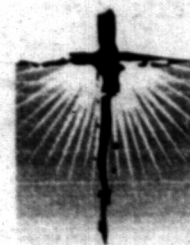
The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approves the appointment of Mississippi native Olinda Wilson to Trinidad in a two-year pilot project involving ministry to the hearing-impaired. Wilson becomes the first foreign missionary appointed specifically for this specialized ministry.

### 50 years ago

Mississippi Baptists baptize 16,051 during the 1957 associational year, an increase of 312 over the previous year, according to figures released at the Mississippi Baptist Evangelistic Conference in Gulfport. First Church, Greenville, led with 147.

## Abstinence ridiculed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A teenage contestant in a preliminary round of this season's American Idol was mocked for his abstinence stance, sending a message to thousands of viewers about how the culture treats the issue. Bruce Dickson, a 19-year-old from Bastrop, Texas, was asked to tell something about himself during the Dallas auditions for the reality show, and he said he had never kissed a girl. "What? On purpose?" exclaimed Randy Jackson, one of the show's judges and a former member of the pop group Journey. "On purpose," Dickson said. "On my wedding day, that will be my first kiss." The home-schooled, Christian teenager went on to explain that he has made a commitment to abstain from sexual activity until marriage, and his father holds him accountable in his decision. "Maybe next year he'll come back less a boy and more a man," quipped Ryan Seacrest as Dickson's segment ended. Later on Fox News, the editor of a pornographic magazine said American Idol is a "national popularity contest based on talent and sex appeal. There's nothing sexy about a 19-year-old guy who's never kissed a girl and wears a heart necklace his father is holding the key to." Dickson told CNS he is firm in his decision despite the puzzling ridicule. "I respect women and don't think of them as a sexual object, and I'm the freak?" he said, adding that divorce and other problems his parents observed in their extended family led them to challenge their children to abstain from sex outside marriage.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## Workshops set for church librarians

Copiah and Lincoln Associations will hold their annual mini-workshop for church librarians on February 9 at 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Copiah Association Master's House at 350 E. Whitworth Street, Hazlehurst. Returning as instructor for the workshop will be Peggy Tacon, Library Ministry Team Leader at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile. Tacon will be teaching "Cataloging Information" and "Administration." The workshop is free. Lunch will cost \$5 and can be paid at the door. There will also be a book swap, so participants should bring a book to swap. For further information, contact Sarah Rutledge at (601) 833-8111.

A second mini-workshop will be held on February 16, at 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at First Church, Corinth, located at 501 Main Street. Instructor for the workshop will be Bev League, Library Team Leader at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. League will be leading "Limited Resources-Unlimited Possibilities" and "Make It & Take It." The cost of the workshop is \$5, which includes a soup and sandwich lunch. Call Alcorn Association at (662) 286-8215, or First Church, Corinth, at (662) 286-2208 to make reservations before February 14, or to receive additional information.





#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

#### WATCHING LEAVES FALL

It was a pleasant December morning. It was cloudy, which gave a sense that it was probably cooler than it actually was. I happened to see a leaf falling from one of the Bradford pear trees. It seemed that the leaves had turned from green to their red and gold colors later than they usually did and one of them was gently floating to the earth. It got my attention. I stood and watched as a few seconds later another leaf tumbled toward the leaf cushion of the rest of their friends already on the ground. There was virtually no wind and they did not appear to be blown off the tree so much as it was just time for one by one to let go and fall to the earth.

It was the Christmas season and of course, there were things that I needed to do and other things that had been scheduled for me to do, but the falling leaves grabbed my attention. I just stood there and watched as another and, after a while another and another, would fall. I thought about how busy we are, especially during the Christmas season. We rush here and there in a hurry to get to the mall where we can observe artificial trees and animated animals. We miss the grandeur of God's handiwork in magnificent golds and reds as the trees are parting with their leaves one by one. I did not spend the day there, but I did take a few minutes to stand, watch, and reflect on the wonder of what was taking place before my eyes.

One of the things that I reflected on was how you can come to the end of your journey



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

beautifully. For months, even through the heat and drought of summer, these trees had been green and alive. Now at the end of the leaves' cycle of life their greatest beauty was being displayed. In the blessings God has given me in over 40 years of ministry, I have seen so many saints live out their walk with God in strength, beauty, and vibrant life. Then at the close of their journey, they were more beautiful than they had ever been through the long journey. The beauty of the trees upon which I was looking was produced and provided by the end time cycle of their life, and so it can be with the believer.

Of course, I have seen folks who have lived with vigor and vitality and then come to the closing miles of their walk with the Lord embittered, angry, frustrated, cynical, and very critical, but it need not be that way. On the other hand, there have been times that I have seen sweet saints who came to the place that they could not walk like they once did. They were unable to stand erect as in days passed. Their eyes were somewhat dimmed and their voices not as strong, all of which seemed to provide a new atmosphere and a new color on the palette of life that allowed their faith to be painted and pic-

tured in ways no one had ever seen before. There have been so many times that I have stood by the side of a saint or been in the circle of family and friends in the room and watched them take their last step from this life to life with our Lord. I would think to myself that this is Psalm 23 in all of its beauty. "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" (Ps. 23:4). The leaves fall from the tree ever so gently and let go to be a part of something new.

Another thought that came to my mind that is akin to the first thought is how these falling leaves are a natural part of life. "It is appointed unto man once to die..." (Heb. 9:27). While we celebrate life and its arrival, we struggle with death and detest its arrival at our front door. I know that leaves do not have souls and that they do not possess a mouth with which they can speak and an attitude that they can express. It occurred to me that I heard no screams coming from them and no anguish or anger at the close

of their life's relationship with the branches. It was a part of the cycle, and they just gently let go. I enjoy life. I enjoy the opportunities, blessings, challenges, and achievements in life of which God has allowed me be a part. It seems as though we spend too little time and give too little attention and encouragement to folks to help them understand that when life is over, the closure of life is just a part of life. The end can be as significant as the beginning.

The leaves continued to fall as I contemplated one other thought: every ending is a new beginning. The beginning of a pregnancy brings the excitement and expectation of the joys ahead. At the end of an educational experience, there is a graduation, which is also a commencement of the beginning of great opportunities ahead. Even to be stopped on a dead-end street is the beginning of the analysis to figure out how you got there and how you change course to get somewhere else. Ends are always beginnings. Watching a leaf float from the sky, I was reminded that for us the final moments here are the beginning of hearing Jesus say, "Well done thy good and faithful servant! Enter into the joys of the Lord" (Matt. 25:21).

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#### REVIVAL

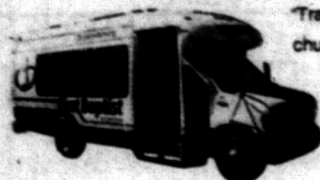
Beulah Church, Newton County: Feb. 17-20; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker; Randy Cuchens, music; Keith Ramage, pastor.

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The five winners will be announced on May 1st during "A Celebration of Strong Women." All nominees and nominators will receive a letter with details about the luncheon. Brought to you by Baptist for Women, Lifetime Television for Women and Comcast Spotlight.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 7, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## ON THE CAMPUS WITH BSU

### Directors Speak

**LLOYD LUNCEFORD**  
Southern Miss,  
Hattiesburg

Jay is a junior photo journalism major here at Southern Miss. He is a remarkable young man. He went to East Asia for the first time during the summer prior to his coming to Southern Miss. God and the people of East Asia caught his heart!

Since entering as a freshman in 2005, Jay has spent every break in Asia. He recently made his third trip with the annual Christmas in East Asia project sponsored by the International Mission Board — this time with his parents on his team. This was Jay's third trip to the city where he spent Christmas 2007.

Two unique characteristics of this young man have been his commitment to learn Mandarin, on his own, and his love for international students. Jay reads his dictionary and constantly challenges me on my knowledge of Mandarin. His love for God's word and sharing that with internationals has led to his providing a weekly Bible study specifically to help international students know who Christ is and what the Word says.

In my 30+ years, Jay stands out as a one-of-a-kind disciple. I thank God for students, like Jay, who have caught the vision and followed Jesus to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Thank you for all of the support for mobilizing students and for supporting our work here at Southern Miss.

#### RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS FROM SOME OF OUR CAMPUSES

- For those students applying for Summer Missions as they pursue what God has for them.
- For opportunities to lead Bible studies for groups of students outside the BSU, especially among our athletes.

**TIM GLAZE**

William Carey, Hattiesburg

On Saturday, November 10, 2007, 40 students, along with BSU director, Tim Glaze, Adrian Strickland and Jimbo Stewart, and the WCU president has his wife convened on the back porch of the BSU center to prepare for Winter HubSERVE. Joining the folks from WCU were approximately 15 members of New Testament Baptist Church. Two weeks prior, Carey BSU had partnered with

NTBC to canvas the neighborhood finding out via surveys what needs could be met in the area surrounding our campuses. The results of this survey were compiled by HubSERVE coordinator, Dennis Elzey, and projects were determined.

Seven teams departed

early one morning to accomplish different tasks. One team was designated as a trash removal team at a nearby trailer park, one team of yard workers, one household chore team, one car wash team, and one construction team. At the end of the day, over 100 large garbage bags had been filled, 10 yards had been cleaned, doors repaired, steps replaced, window screens fixed, and over 20 cars washed. One kitchen took seven hours to clean.

In addition, as students served, they went door to door sharing the gospel with those who wanted to hear. At the end of the day, a cook-out was hosted by New Testament Baptist Church with an attendance of over 100 people. The students of Carey BSU along with NTBC, are eager to do this again. Please pray that we may continue our partnership with NTBC and that Christ will use this to have an eternal impact on the folks living right in our back yard

MISSISSIPPI  
**BSU**  
We're there!

## Witnessing Through Media

### AWARDS INFO

**PURPOSE:** The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

**WHEN:** May 2-3, 2008

Awards Banquet on Friday, May 2, 7-9 p.m.

Workshops on Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

(Watch our Web site for more information on the workshops — [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org))

**WHERE:** Park Place Baptist Church

5701 Hwy. 80 East, Pearl, MS 39208

**AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

**Division I** — Small budget projects using volunteers as well as in-house production facilities.

**Division II** — Medium to large budget projects using paid staff or outside production house. This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.

#### A. VIDEO

1. Church Musicals
2. Feature Presentation (30-60 minutes)
3. Magazine
4. Commercial
5. Promotional (stewardship, building campaign, etc.)
6. Music Video
7. Worship Service (broadcast and nonbroadcast)

#### B. AUDIO

1. Radio Program
2. Commercial
3. Special Project

#### C. WEB SITE

#### D. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY

#### ENTRY PROCEDURE:

1. Each entry must include: An entry form, description and fee. **Cost: \$12 fee per entry** (Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)
2. A separate entry form and fee is required for each category entered. Duplicate the entry form, if necessary.
3. Entry fee does not apply to workshop registration fee.
4. Submit program in the following formats:
  - Video — DVD, Beta SP, Mini-DV, DVCAM or S-VHS
  - Web site — submit address on entry form
  - Radio — CD
5. Submit each program entry on a separate tape and clearly label with:
  - Name of Local Church
  - Category Name
  - Title of Entry
  - Original Running Time
6. The program should have been aired or viewed prior to March 1, 2008.
7. The judges reserve the right to move an entry to an appropriate category, add or delete categories.
8. All questions must be answered on entry form.

#### DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:

Call 601-292-3378 or check Web site for ENTRY FORM, [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org). Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than March 7, 2008, 4:45 p.m.

#### ENTRIES SHOULD BE MAILED TO ONE OF THESE ADDRESSES

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry  
MBCB  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205-0530

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry  
MBCB  
515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson MS 39201-1702



KIDS CAMP '08 JUNE 23-25 & 26-28  
CENT. ALBANY BAPTIST CHURCH / KOSCIUSKO, MISS.



FOR COMPLETED GRADES 3-6

WORSHIP  
CHURCH BIBLE STUDY  
HORSEBACK RIDING  
ADVENTURE ROPES COURSE  
ARCHERY/BITERY  
FISHING

For registration information contact MBCB Conference Office at 601-292-3216. For program information contact MBCB Sunday School Department at 601-292-3292.

a missions weekender for teenage girls, grades 7-12 and their leaders.

## CHURCH FACILITIES & FURNISHINGS WORKSHOP

March 18, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Parkway BC, Clinton

802 North Frontage Road

For more information, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 601-292-3292. E-mail: [info@mbcb.org](mailto:info@mbcb.org)

## Senior Adult Retreats

### I. May 19-20 at Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Speaker: Henry Lyons, Montgomery, Ala.  
Former ABCB senior adult consultant and former pastor of FBC, Salem

Choirs: 19th - Reflections, FBC, Jackson  
20th - Trinity Singers, Southaven

Gatherings: 19th - Songs through the Decades  
Eva Hart, FBC, Jackson

20th - R.L. & Beth Sigest  
Mini Concert, Yazoo City

### II. May 22-23 at FBC, Cleveland

Speaker: Chuck Kelley  
President of NOBTS

Choirs: 22nd - Parkway Singers, Clinton  
23rd - Ridgecrest Choir, Madison

Gatherings: 22nd - Him Singers, Raymond  
23rd - Irene Martin, Pianist  
Mickey Bounds, Cajun Preacher

### III. May 26-27 at Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian

Speaker: Phil Waldrop, Alabama  
Founder of Celebrations for Seniors

Choirs: 26th - Forest Senior Adult Choir  
27th - FBC, Magee

Gatherings: 26th - Wayne Pinkerton  
Motown Music, MBCB  
27th - Jerry Watts, "Humor"

### IV. September 25-26 at FBC, McComb

Speaker: Sonny Adkins  
Former state evangelism director

Choirs: 25th - FBC Senior Adult Choir, Pascagoula  
26th - Lamar County Association Choir

Gatherings: 25th - "Professor Cornpone"  
Joseph Harris, Ellisville  
26th - Piano/organ duet  
Irene Martin and Ed Sudduth

For info: 601-292-3373 or [gshows@mbcb.org](mailto:gshows@mbcb.org)

## Family

FREE hamburgers and hot dogs!

Registration begins at 10 a.m.  
We will adjourn at 3 p.m.

**Antioch BC, Leakesville**  
601-394-2657

### Special Guest Speaker

Judy Marby, Ventriloquist

Children's activities / booths / mini-cart races / clowns / and much more!

(Sponsored by the George-Greene Baptist Association Office and the MBCB)

## STATE MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

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CONFERENCE

Bloom  
WHERE YOU  
Planted

Simple  
Revival  
Empowering  
God's People



For more information, contact the Evangelism Department  
601-292-3278 or E-mail [jellis@mbcb.org](mailto:jellis@mbcb.org)



## FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS WHO HAVE COMPLETED GRADES 3-7

Bible study, Bible memorization, Bible skill, worship, campfire service, morning watch, time with Southern Baptist missionaries, horseback riding, rifle range [safety/marksmanship], swimming, canoeing, four-square ... and much more!



Each church group must have an adult male counselor for every six boys (or portion thereof) and an adult female counselor for every six girls (or portion thereof). Campers are together with the counselors from their church all during camp.

Camp begins with check-in at 2 p.m., Monday, June 30, and ends at noon on Wednesday, July 2.

For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department 601-292-3287 or dhicks@mbcb.org

Cost \$95 with \$50 deposit due with preregistration

## Christian Performing Arts Festival

February 20-23, Ft. Clinton



- Puppetry
- Clowning
- Drama
- Media
- Missions
- Church Recreation
- Youth Ministry

Featured Guests:  
**FISHWORKS**

Child care is not provided. This conference is geared for 6th grade thru adult.

If you have any questions about the festival, please contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 601-292-3287 or 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail at redwards@mbcb.org.

## SINGLE Life Conferences

Tuesday, February 12

### CONFERENCES:

- One Won't
- Experiencing Forgiveness

Tuesday, March 4

### CONFERENCES:

- Forgiveness
- Picking up the Pieces

All conferences begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. (Free meal provided.)  
For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 601-292-3373 or gshows@mbcb.org



June 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27  
June 30-July 4  
July 7-11, 14-18, 21-25

June 23-27  
July 7-11

Registration opens  
March 1, 2008

Cost \$155 per person



For more information, contact the Mississippi wMu department at 1.800.748.1651, ext. 316, or in Jackson at 601.292.3316.

## Summer Youth Camps • Grades 7-12

**JUNE 2-25, 2008**

Hinds Community College  
Raymond, Miss.



Coaches: Gary Perimeter and Chris Taylor  
Fish Robinson and TRA  
J.D. Simpson and Will Brady  
Nate Barnes and Tom Edwards  
Tom Brady and Tom Edwards



## Pray this day for...

February 8 - 21, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear me in the truth of Your salvation." (Psalm 69:13)*

(1) Racial Reconciliation Sunday (CAC Emphasis); (2) The Muslims who have given their lives to Jesus as a result of the Shia Outreach earlier this year need weekly to learn more about their Redeemer and living as a Muslim-background believer. Pray that God will convict their hearts to be baptized.

In July 2007, A. began work at Mrs. S's company. Mrs. S. shared the gospel with her. A. gave her heart to Christ and was baptized. Her boyfriend found out she had become a Christian, became angry and left her. A. quit work and refuses contact with Christians. Ask God to lead her through this suffering and build her hope on Christ.

(1) Focus on Missions through WMU Organizations, 11th - 17th (WMU Emphasis); (2) When new missionaries come to West Africa they often begin to encounter new experiences as soon as they are at the airport. Pray that they will trust God wholeheartedly to guide them each day of their missionary journey.

In Mumbai there is a huge population of Muslim Bangladeshi immigrants. Marginalized laborers, for the most part, they live primarily in slums. There is a possibility that a Muslim-background believer from Bangladesh may relocate to work among these people. Pray that as this worker brings the possibility before the Lord, he will obey.

(1) Missionaries serving among the Wolof people of Senegal, along with 15 students and two teachers from Dakar Academy, distributed 320 DVDs entitled "More Than Dreams" and 10 new Testaments in a Dakar neighborhood in Senegal. Pray that the recipients will view the DVDs and read the New Testaments.

Ask God to make Himself known to Muslim children who are growing up in a culture where few hear about Jesus. Many may suffer the ill effects of an unbelieving home such as abuse, neglect, divorce and demonic influences. Pray that Muslim parents will come to truth and then raise their children in godly homes.

Please pray for teams from a Great Commission Christian group who are seeking to connect with believing students from the USA who have come to Paris to study. These believers are an essential part of the relational evangelism that occurs each semester, as they have natural relationships with French students on various campuses.

Team Bulgaria (Sofia) writes: We will have two youth/college teams coming this summer. Please intercede for them as they prepare to come and help us reach out to the community. Ask God to prepare hearts to hear their message, and pray for new Bible study groups and new believers to come into the Kingdom.

Recently in the state of Karnataka, India, 541 new believers were baptized and 161 new churches were started. Hundreds of others became believers but have not yet been baptized. More than 500 new believers' groups were started. Pray for these new followers of Jesus that they will share their stories with many others.

(1) Mississippi Baptist Christian Educators Fellowship, Hattiesburg, 21st and 22nd (CG); (2) Please intercede for the evangelistic narrative Bible studies in missionaries Larry and Maria Green's home, Porto Alegre, Brazil. Ask God to bring the lost to the studies and for the group to transition quickly into the homes of the participants.

Pray that key relationships will form for Filipinos, as explorations are being made to link believers together in a new area. Their is someone who is an intentional, fruitful witness in a very unreached place. Pray that people among whom they live and work will not be able to resist God's love and plan.

(1) Christian Education Clinic: Highland BC, Meridian (D&FM); (2) Remember the G family, as they are returning to the United States for further medical treatment for their youngest son. Pray that the Father will provide for all of their needs and help them to adjust to their home culture once again.

Professors will strike, students will strike, and sometimes they will even riot to receive what they have been promised. Ask God to give those in authority at Chancellor College in Malawi faithfulness in keeping their promises and wisdom in budgeting. Pray that God will provide for the needs of the professors and students.



## Mississippi Family FEST on the Gulf Coast July 26-30, 2008

Location: Jackson County

Cost: \$25 per person (\$50 maximum for immediate family members), includes program fee, t-shirt, breakfast and lunch meals, plus dinner on Wednesday evening.

Types of Ministries: Light Construction/Painting, Community Service & Outreach, Children's Ministries, Acts of Kindness

How to Register:  
Request a registration packet by calling MS wMu at 800-748-1651, ext. 317, or E-mail [lmiller@mbcb.org](mailto:lmiller@mbcb.org).



This event is co-sponsored by the Family Ministry Team, Men's Ministry, Mississippi wMu, Jackson Association, and participating local churches.

For more information please contact Don Gann ([dgann@mbcb.org](mailto:dgann@mbcb.org)) in Men's Ministry or Tammy Anderson ([tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org)) in Mississippi wMu at 800-748-1651.

4/1/93 - Mr. Drew W.  
Parents: Matt & Shea  
Last Frontier

4/3/89 - Miss Alicia Racey  
Parents: Michael & Annette  
South America

4/5/04 - Mr. Noah C.  
Parents: James and Tracy  
Restricted

4/14/90 - Miss Samantha Tabor  
Parents: Michael & Jeana  
South America

4/17/91 - Mr. Mason N.  
Parents: Jeffrey & Judy  
Restricted

4/21/94 - Miss Sarah N.  
Parents: Jeffrey & Judy  
Restricted

4/24/90 - Miss Kimberly Carlton  
Parents: David & Pamela  
Central, Eastern & South Africa

4/25/07  
Mr. Peyton Cunningham  
Parents: Paul & Keri  
South America

Miss E.S. - 4/26/05  
Parents: S & M  
Restricted

4/27/01 - Miss Lindsey W.  
Parents: Matt & Shea  
Last Frontier

4/28/87 - Miss Rebekah Ray  
Parents: Michael & Linda  
Central & Eastern Europe

4/28/91 - Mr. Cale Little  
Parents: Bob & Amy  
West Africa

4/29/93  
Mr. Christopher Carlton  
Parents: David & Pamela  
Central, Eastern & South Africa

**Encourage  
an MK  
with a card!**

FOR SECURITY,  
cards will be forwarded.  
Please send all to: Child's  
name, Parent's name,  
MBCB wMu MK  
Birthdays,  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS  
39205

PLEASE NOTE:  
Church members may send  
a package of cards together;  
cards do not have to be  
sent individually to the  
wMu.

HOUSE TOPS





1. Wilder and family



3. Palmer and wife Lauren



2. Fanguy and wife Melanie

1. **Parks Church, New Albany**, has called Frank Wilder as pastor effective Dec. 23, 2008. Shown are Wilder, wife Lisa, and daughters Rachel and Brooke.

2. **New Zion Church, Leake County**, has called Timmy Fanguy as pastor. He has pastored churches in Scott County and Newton County. He comes with his wife Melanie, children D.J., Whitley, and Chancy, and granddaughter Shelby.



3. **First Church, Bruce**, has called Clay Palmer as youth minister, effective Feb. 24. He comes from Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, with his wife Lauren.

4. **Timothy Gassaway**, a recent Blue Mountain College graduate, has been called as youth director of First Church, Plantersville.

5. **Country Woods Church, Byram**, has called Jon Daniels as pastor, effective Jan. 6. He comes from Monticello Church, Monticello, and also served in various student minister positions at First Church, Jackson, and First Church, Brookhaven. He holds degrees from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Vicki have three children: Reese, Rachel, and Russ.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
copyrighted 2005

HIE YB LYHL ZBIL XB  
DZ RDLY XB: LYB  
MHLYBN YHLY IGL ABML  
XB HAGIB; MGN D EG  
HARHTZ LYGZB LYDISZ  
LYHL FABHZB YDX.

VGVI BDSYL: LRBILT-IDIB

Clue: H=A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Four: Six.



# WE TAKE THAT HANDS AND FEET THING SERIOUSLY

## WE'RE CALLED TO BE JESUS' HANDS AND FEET

in a world desperate to be sought by love and touched by grace. It's a serious thing to be called a Christian. It means leaving comfort behind and giving life to the least and the lost. It means using what God's given you to be change in the world. To live as Christ is to change lives.

AT MISSIONLAB, WE LIVE FOR LIFE CHANGE



Now's the time to register your students for MissionLab, a custom-packed week of mission experiences in New Orleans, all packed into a summer camp environment. We provide housing,

## THE MISSION IS CALLING

meals, mission sites, and a spiritually refreshing week with a camp pastor, summer staff, and live worship bands. Join us and make a difference this summer. The change is yours to make.

MISSION LAB



Register online or call 1-877-TRY-MLAB

[www.missionlab.com](http://www.missionlab.com)

## 2008 Camp Dates

June 1 - 7	July 6 - 12
June 8 - 14	July 13 - 19
June 15 - 21	July 20 - 26
June 22 - 28	July 27 - Aug 2

DISCOUNTED RATES AVAILABLE!!



# ACTS 1:8 .... TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

## AUGUST 15TH & 16TH AT FBC, BILOXI WITH COST \$5

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Perfect Attendance, Siloam Church, West Point

1. **Siloam Church, West Point**, recognized Edmond Reid for 47 years of perfect Sunday School attendance. Mike Fondren, Sr., pastor.

2. **Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association**, participated in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry. Shown are the children who helped in collecting 26 boxes. Robert E. Walker, pastor.

3. **First Church, Magee**, will host Bethany Barr Phillips in concert Feb. 10, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received.

4. **Cleary Church, Florence**, is hosting the Girls of Grace

Nation simulcast Feb. 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with lunch provided. The event includes Point of Grace and other speakers via satellite. Tickets are \$10; contact the church for ticket sales or more information at (601) 845-2020, or visit [www.girlsofgrace.com](http://www.girlsofgrace.com).

5. **Faith Church, Ovett**, is sponsoring family game night the 2nd and 4th Friday night of each month beginning Feb. 8, 6-11 p.m. For more information, call pastor James Balliet at (601) 498-0004.



2. Operation Christmas Child, Concord Church, Tippah Assoc.

### MS POSITIONS

**RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**, Jackson, is seeking a part-time minister of children. For more information or to submit a resume, please call (601) 372-6154 or e-mail pastor Jonathan Russell at [jrusell@raymondroad.com](mailto:jrusell@raymondroad.com).

**HANDBORO BAPTIST CHURCH** is now accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Send to HBC Pastor Search Committee, 1421 E. Pass Road, Gulfport, MS 39507.

**NORTH COLUMBIA BAPTIST CHURCH** is searching for a minister of music/education. Send resume to North Columbia Baptist Church, P. O. Box 271, Columbia, MS 39429 or e-mail to [ncbc1@hotmail.com](mailto:ncbc1@hotmail.com).

**RESUMES FOR POSITION OF Association Missions Director**, Lincoln Association, will be accepted beginning February 1, 2008. Send resumes to Lincoln Baptist Association, P. O. Box 363, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**, Water Valley, Miss., is seeking a part-time music/youth minister. Please send resumes to Bethel Baptist Church, c/o Bill Finch, 500 S. Main Street, Water Valley, MS 38965-3327. e-mail: [bfinches@bellsouth.net](mailto:bfinches@bellsouth.net) phone: (662) 473-3667.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/Music**. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of music and/or youth.

Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to [parkviewp@bellsouth.net](mailto:parkviewp@bellsouth.net).

**FBC, MAGNOLIA, MISS.**, searching for an part-time youth minister. Send resume to 126 S Clark St., Magnolia, MS 39652 or contact church office, (601) 783-3391.

**ROSELAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH** in Picayune, Miss., is searching for a full-time minister of music. Worship services (2 in the a.m., and 1 evening) are blended in musical style. Seminary degree or current student preferred. Send resumes to 2130 Highway 11 North, Picayune, MS 39466, attn: music search committee.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE:** Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit [www.turnerinsuranceonline.com](http://www.turnerinsuranceonline.com).

**AFFORDABLE BEACHFRONT** & beachside vacation condos. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Best value on the beach! Lowest Prices! Over 50 top quality condos! Your satisfaction is our top priority, owned & operated by christian family since 1988, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524, [www.gulfshorescondos.com](http://www.gulfshorescondos.com).

**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC.**, serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

**DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES.** Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kinkiglas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

**SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON**, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS**, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

**FULL-TIME WORSHIP LEADER:** Parkview Baptist Church, Tuscumbia, Alabama, is seeking God's man to lead the church in celebrative, passionate worship. Parkview is a growing church with 400 plus in two morning worship services. Resumes may be sent to Parkview Baptist Church, attn: pastor, 1404 Hwy 72 East, Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674, or email to [jim.cummings@parkviewfamily.org](mailto:jim.cummings@parkviewfamily.org).

**RETIRED LADY NEEDS A CHRISTIAN** lady, 60 plus, to live in lovely furnished private apartment. Housekeeper, in return for her care all expenses paid. Rent free, everything free. If interested, call (601) 684-5754 after 5 p.m.

**CABIN IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT:** 2 bedrm 2 bath, full kitchen, great view of National Park, \$95.00/night. Call for information (281) 855-4469 or (832) 922-0401/0141. Email [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net).

**THE COLBERT LAUDERDALE BAPTIST** Association is seeking resumes for a full-time camp director for their Earle Trent Assembly. The assembly is open year round for groups of all ages. Please send resumes to: Colbert Lauderdale Baptist 3901 Hatch Blvd., Sheffield, AL 35660, or email to [eddy.garner@clbaptist.org](mailto:eddy.garner@clbaptist.org).

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF Livingston** is accepting resumes for the position of full-time Minister of Music. Resumes will be accepted through March 17, 2008. Submit resumes to Livingston First Baptist Church, attention: music minister search team, PO Box 118, Livingston, Louisiana 70754 or email to [tnfbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:tnfbc@bellsouth.net).

**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH** in Tullahoma, Tennessee, is accepting resumes for Pastor. Seminary degree and minimum five years experience required. Please send resume to [stones@cafes.net](mailto:stones@cafes.net), or mail to Steve Stone - PSC, 203 Carol Lynne Ave., Tullahoma, Tennessee 37388.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY**, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME** seeking Christian House parents for boys home located in Northwest Alabama. For more information, please call (256) 356-8900 or (256) 810-4908.

**STAINED GLASS:** new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

**CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE:** 3.9 state to state, 3.9 in state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-866-587-8346 or [www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt](http://www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt).

## Open House

Saturday February 23, 10 am & 1 pm  
Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Jackson

Call 601-371-8733 for reservations  
and to be eligible for \$5,000 in prizes!

Entertainment, refreshments, trip information  
and building discounts. Groups welcome.

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2008 Tour schedule:

Alaska, The Wild West, rural New England in the Fall,  
Branson in the Ozarks, National Quartet Convention,  
Gaither concert & festival  
Smokey Mountain Christmas, Nashville Christmas,  
Washington & Williamsburg

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601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



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# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## The Message

Galatians 1:6-10, 11-12; 3:1-9

By Andy Vaughn

People have many things that vie for their attention. Commitments are commonly made to exercise programs, serving on committees, and work obligations; then something else comes along begging for attention. People often find themselves in the position of deciding what is worth committing to and what is not. Ask yourself, "Why should my commitment to Christ stand above everything else in my life?" It is of great importance for us to understand that the level of commitment we have for something is directly related to the message of that to which we are committed. There is nothing wrong with having multiple commitments and obligations, but when it comes to the message of Christ we

must carry the gospel to the world.

The world is full of people that have committed themselves to the fullest. To a lost person, Christianity may seem like just another thing that wants their time and money. A lost person may think, "Why would I want something else in my life, like Christianity, that could make things busier?" Consider the question, "What can I say to a lost person that will encourage them to accept Christ and hold Him as their highest commitment in life?" Also consider, "Am I committed to the message of Christ in such a way that it causes me to reach out to lost people?" Keep in mind that the level of commitment we have for Christ demonstrates to others how firmly we hold to His message.



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Galatians 1:6-7 (NASB) says, "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ."

Christians in the early church at Galatia were turning away from Christ to follow a false teaching. This was not only a problem in the early church, but is a recurring problem in the church today. The crux of the problem for the Galatians and the world today is many do not hold firmly to the message of Christ.

We must ask, "What is the message of Christ, and why should it be held onto so firmly above anything else?" Galatians 1:10 (NASB) says, "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond servant of Christ." Paul makes it clear that he is a ser-

vant of Christ and not of man. He held so firmly to the message of Christ that he would not forsake it for the satisfaction of those around him. Paul's commitment to the message of Christ was held in the grasp of God and serving HIM.

Paul's commitment to the message he preached was firmly grounded in the Author of the message. Galatians 1:11-12 says, "For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ." Scripture declares the gospel as a revelation from Jesus Christ and not man. It is God's message of salvation to man.

In sharing the message of Christ with others it is important for people to understand that the Gospel is God's saving work through Christ. Not man's saving work for himself! It is not a message designed by man, but is fully dependent on God.

Paul asked his audience in Galatians 3:2 if salvation is by

works or faith. Those that opposed the gospel of Christ taught that salvation was acquired through works. False teachings led many to believe that mere belief in Jesus was not enough for salvation. Galatians 3:3 says, "Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"

Today, a lot of people lose sight of what they are doing because of the heavy work load stacked up before them. Only Christ can handle the workload that sin piles upon people. It is the perfect work of Christ on the cross that makes salvation possible for man. Faith in His work on the cross is necessary.

The commitment that God makes to everyone through the gospel message is that He sent His Son to save people from their sins. Lost people must be told the message of hope through the gospel. We must commit ourselves to carry the message of Christ to everyone!

Vaughn is pastor of First Church, Fulton.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Do You Obey in Faith

Genesis 22: 1-6, 9-22

By Melleen Moore

Do you remember the childhood game "Mother, May I"? The leader would give a command and the player would ask permission to complete the command. The moral of the game was to teach obedience and respect. With awe and respect of God, we are expected to completely obey His commands without delay.

#### Does God Command Us

Genesis 22:1-2

Abraham, a man of faith, had experienced years of peace living in Canaan with his wife, Sarah and promised son, Isaac. God has stretched Abraham's faith throughout his life from the first command to leave his home land, Ur of the Chaldeans. Now Abraham faces the ultimate test with the command to offer Isaac as a

burnt offering. The wording "after these things" (Genesis 22:1 NKJV) suggest that time had lapsed while Abraham lived in Beersheba and Isaac grew to be a young man. The historian Josephus suggests that Isaac was 25 at the time of the test. He was large enough to carry wood for the altar and old enough to recognize the lamb for the sacrifice was missing. Abraham's answer to God's call was simple "Here I Am" (Genesis 22:1 NKJV) making himself available to God. The command was specific to take your son, your only son that you love and go. Not only was the action specific, the location and purpose were specific — to Moriah to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. With thoughts of God's promised descendant through Isaac, Abraham begins the 50 mile



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journey to Moriah, just north of Jerusalem.

#### When and How Do We Respond

Genesis 22: 3-6

The response of Abraham was immediate and thorough as he prepared for the trip. Getting an early start, saddling the donkey, selecting two servants, splitting the wood, and preparing himself and Isaac, the three day trip began. Abraham's preparation made sure nothing would prevent God's command from being completed. Four men traveling with one donkey suggested that the men walked while the donkey carried the supplies — wood, food, coverings and water. When Abraham saw the destination ahead, he took only Isaac saying "the lad and I will go yonder and worship and we will come back to you" (Genesis 22:5 NKJV). The obedience was up to Abraham as man had complete control over family and servants so Abraham's directive needed no explanation. Isaac carried the wood while

Abraham carried the fire. Although the promise of many descendants and the command to sacrifice Isaac seemed to contradict, Abraham had no doubt about God's command. He was willing to be faithful. Isaac was in complete trust of his father and Abraham was in complete obedience of God.

#### Do We Follow Through

Genesis 22: 9-10

Abraham's intention to follow through was never a question. Upon arrival at the site, he "built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood" (Genesis 22:9 HCSB). As mentioned in verse 2, it would be a burnt offering which meant "totally consumed." Absolute trust was demonstrated as Isaac was bound. No mention is made of a struggle just complete submission. Isaac being placed on top of the wood, Abraham deliberately raised the knife for the slaughter, an act he had performed many times in animal sacrifice for worship. This time it was his only son, his heir and the

promise fulfillment of God but he would follow through.

#### Do We Experience God's Affirmation and Insights

Genesis 22: 11-18

Abraham experienced a word from God which caused him to stop the knife in mid-air. Abraham's answer with "Here I Am" as he had done twice before. The first "Here I Am" was Abraham's answer to God in the original command; second "Here I Am" was in answer to Isaac as he questioned about the lamb. Abraham was willing to give God what he asked for. God said, "Now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me" (Genesis 22:12 NKJV). God provided a substitute for the sacrifice with a ram caught in a thicket. Jesus was the substitute for us that we might have eternal life. God restated his blessing and promise to Abraham — "In your seed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:18 NKJV).

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon ordinations, Banner Church, Bruce



2. DiscipleNow participants, First Church, Plantersville



3. Shepherd commissioned, Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia

1. Banner Church, Bruce, ordained B.G. (Bennie) Thompson and W.R. (Tiny) Murphee as deacons Jan. 27. Shown are Robert Alexander, Michael Waldrop, Thompson, Murphee, and pastor Jackie Douglas.

2. Youth from First Church, Plantersville, participated in DiscipleNow Jan. 18-20. Shown are the participants.

3. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia, commissioned Shanna Shepherd Jan. 27 as a semester missionary in Silverthorn, Col. Shown are her parents Jeff and Tammy Shepherd and pastor Billy James.

4. The wMu of First Church, Byram, gave each 1st grader a Bible recently. Shown are Brianna Hall, Amber Torrey, Emileigh Freels, Ryan Breaux, and Alex Howell.

5. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, surpassed their \$14,000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal by collecting \$14,809. Shown are wMu director Bobbie Bridges and pastor Eddie Bryant.

6. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, exceeded their \$3000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. Shown are Min Miller, Rachel Turner, Omigene Griffis, Gay Dawn Boyd, Doris Thomas, and Merle Ivy with dolls they made.



4. First graders receive Bibles, First Church, Byram

7. Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, ordained Austin Bahm to the ministry Jan. 27. Shown are pastor Tracey Hipps, Bahm, and Mark Farris.

8. Cold Springs Church, Collins, is hosting a marriage enrichment retreat Feb. 16, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. It will be led by Page and Ashley Brooks, New Orleans Seminary. Cost is \$7 singles, \$10 couples. For more information and tickets, call (601) 765-4363.



5. Lottie Moon goal surpassed, Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel



6. Lottie Moon goal exceeded, Calvary Church, Pascagoula

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. A special collection at the Leland Speed Library, and a new book on Mississippi College history tell the story about Mississippi's oldest institution of higher learning. It's a history that stretches from 1826 through 2008, with MC celebrating its 182nd birthday. Mississippi College was originally known as Hampstead Academy and was chartered on January 24, 1826. The name was changed to Mississippi Academy, and in 1830 to Mississippi College. With 4,600 students, MC is Mississippi's largest private university and oldest Baptist college in America.



4. BMC, Theta Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu

2. U.S. District Judge Sharion Aycock will deliver the commencement speech at her alma mater, the Mississippi College School of Law, May 9, 10 a.m.

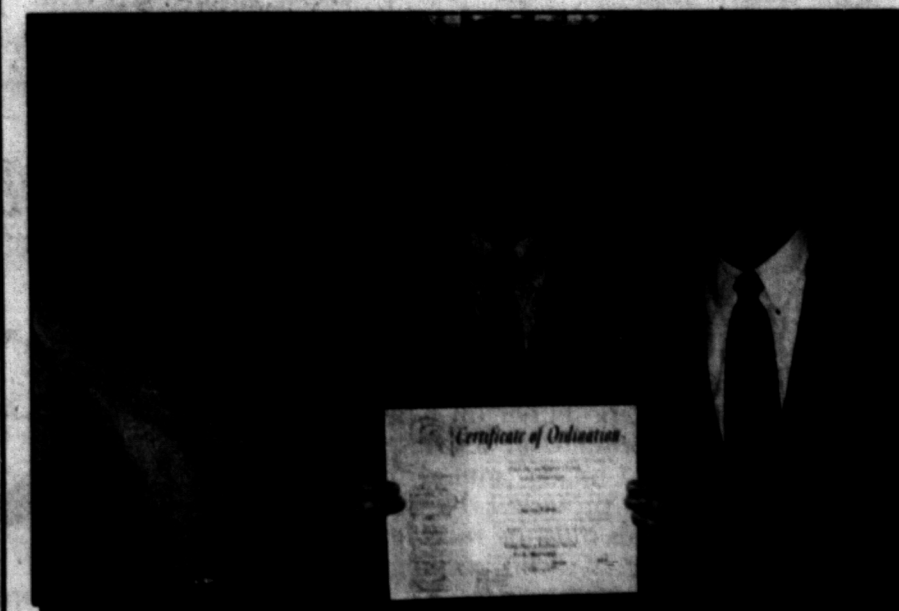


2. Aycock

3. The Second Annual Literacy Workshop entitled Literacy Instruction: Covering all the Bases in Reading, will be held February 23 from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Fairchild Hall on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. The workshop

is sponsored by the Pine Belt Reading Council. For more information call Phyllis Armstrong, lecturer in education at WCU, at (601) 318-6142.

4. The Blue Mountain College Theta Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu international honor society in the social sciences recently installed its newest members: (Front row) Daniel Pitts, vice president, Blue Springs; Shandy Dill, president, Iuka; Danielle Ingram, Corinth; Valerie Jackson; Tupelo; Mark Hardin, Booneville; and Sam Hisaw, Booneville. (Back row) Jeffrey Sweatt, sponsor; Carey Hamblen, New Albany; and John Eaton, Ecu.



7. Bahm ordained, Petal-Harvey Church, Petal